

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:
receiving, by a receiver, a connection context request to establish a connection between a mobile station and a gateway element of a network;
determining, by a processor, whether binding information is required;
determining, by the processor, whether the binding information was supplied with the connection context request; and
when the binding information is required and was not supplied, responding, by the processor, to the request on the basis of a policy determined by the operator of the network.

2. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the connection context request comprises a request for a first resource level, and wherein the responding comprises supplying a second, different resource level.

3. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, further comprising:
activating the connection context; and
informing the mobile station that charging will differ from that associated with a resource level requested in the connection context request.

4. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the connection context request comprises a request for a resource level and wherein the resource level comprises a quality of service parameter.

5. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 4, further comprising downgrading the quality of service.

6. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 4, further comprising informing the mobile station of the change in quality of service.

7. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, comprising reducing a resource level comprising rejecting the connection context request.

8. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the context request is a packet data protocol context request.

9. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the network gateway element comprises a serving general packet radio service support node or a gateway general packet radio service support node.

10. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, comprising, prior to the receiving of the connection context request, receiving access to a list of access point names that are internet protocol multimedia subsystem related, and wherein the determining whether the binding information was supplied with the connection context request comprises further determining whether the connection context request refers to one of the access point names on the list.

11. (Previously Presented) A method comprising:
receiving a connection context request to establish a connection between a mobile station and a network gateway element in the network gateway element, the connection context request comprising binding information and traffic flow parameters, the traffic flow parameters being indicative of intended packet filtering;
sending an authorization request from the network gateway element to a network policy control element;
receiving a packet classifier from the policy control element in response to the authorization request, the packet classifier being configured for use by the gateway element;

determining in the network gateway whether a conflict exists between attribute values of the traffic flow parameters and attribute values of the packet classifier; and
when there is a conflict, informing the mobile station.

12. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 11, further comprising:
when there is a conflict, rejecting the connection context request.

13. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 11, further
comprising determining suitable traffic flow parameter values and informing the mobile
station of those values, when the conflict exists

14. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 11, further comprising, when
the conflict exists:
determining revised traffic flow parameter values to overcome the conflict; accepting the
connection context request; and
informing the mobile station of the revised traffic flow parameters.

15. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 13, wherein the mobile
station is informed via a protocol configuration option message.

16. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 11, wherein the context
request is a packet data protocol context request.

17. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 11, wherein the network
gateway element comprises a serving general packet radio service support node or a gateway
general packet radio service support node.

18. (Previously Presented) An apparatus, comprising:
a receiver configured to receive a connection context request from a mobile station; and
a processor configured to determine whether binding information is required, to determine

whether binding information was supplied with the connection context request, and when the binding information is required and was not supplied, to respond to the request on the basis of a policy determined by the operator of the network.

19. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 18, further configured to supply a different resource level from that requested in the connection context request when the binding information is required and was not supplied.

20. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 18, further configured to: activate the connection context; and inform the mobile station that charging will differ from that associated with a resource level requested.

21. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 18, wherein the connection context request comprises a resource level request, and wherein the resource level comprises a quality of service parameter.

22. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 21, further configured to downgrade the quality of service.

23. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 21, further configured to inform the mobile station of the change in quality of service.

24. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 18, wherein reducing the resource level comprises rejecting the connection context request.

25. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 18, wherein the context request is a packet data protocol context request.

26. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 18, wherein the apparatus

comprises a serving general packet radio service support node or a gateway general packet radio service support node.

27. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 18, configured to have access to a list of access point names that are internet protocol multimedia subsystem related, and the apparatus is configured to determine when the connection context request refers to one of the access point name on the list.

28. (Previously Presented) An apparatus, comprising:
a receiver configured to receive a connection context request from a mobile station, the connection context request comprising binding information and traffic flow parameters, the traffic flow parameters being indicative of intended packet filtering;
a transmitter configured to send an authorization request from the apparatus to a network policy control element, wherein the receiver is configured to receive a packet classifier from the policy control element in response to the authorization request, the packet classifier being intended for use by the apparatus; and
a processor configured to determine whether a conflict exists between attribute values of the traffic flow parameters and attribute values of the packet classifier, and when there is a conflict, to inform the mobile station.

29. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 28, configured, when there is a conflict, to reject the connection context.

30. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 28, configured, when there is a conflict, to determine suitable traffic flow parameter values and informing the mobile station of those values.

31. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 28, configured, when there is a conflict, to:
determine revised traffic flow parameter values to overcome the conflict; accept the

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connection context; and
inform the mobile station of the revised traffic flow parameters.

32. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 29, configured to inform the mobile station via a protocol configuration option message.

33. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 28, wherein the context request is a packet data protocol context request.

34. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 28, wherein the apparatus comprises a serving general packet radio service support node or a gateway general packet radio service support node.

35.-38. (Cancelled)